

July 13, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

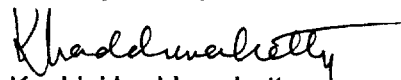
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my comments regarding Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food." I am strongly opposed to weakening the current legislation regarding labelling of irradiated foods. This is a matter of paramount importance to me. I am shocked that your agency, which currently requires specification of calorie counts and the presence of trace minerals, would even consider removing this piece of vital information.

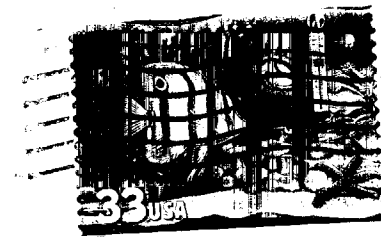
I have not yet reached a conclusion regarding the safety of irradiated foods. It disturbs me that the information I have viewed so far is unabashedly biased, for or against, this technology. There appear to be few calm voices in the middle. Furthermore, as past experience has taught us with DDT, thalidomide, etc., it is not until decades of application of a particular technology have passed that the effects surface. If we as a society are not sufficiently patient and cautious to undertake long-term testing *prior* to the widespread adoption of radical technologies, the only the recourse the public has is to use all available information to make the proper personal decision.

Thank you for your attention.


Keshini Ladduwahetty
2939 Van Ness Street, NW
Apartment 220
Washington, DC 20008

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